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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4960th meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 April 2004, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council notes that the presentation of the Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan (KSIP) on 31 March 2004 in Pristina, Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro), is a step forward in the standards process. The Council reiterates that the KSIP should serve as a basis for the assessment of progress of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) in meeting the standards. The Council in this respect urges strongly the PISG to demonstrate their full and unconditional commitment to a multi-ethnic Kosovo, in particular with respect to the protection and promotion of rights of members of the minority communities as well as of human rights, equal security, freedom of movement and sustainable returns for all inhabitants of Kosovo. The Council reiterates further that the progress by the PISG in meeting the standards, which should be reflected throughout Kosovo, will be assessed periodically and that the advancement towards a process to determine future status of Kosovo in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) will depend on the positive outcome of a comprehensive review.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the "Standards before Status" policy, that was devised for Kosovo, and endorsed by this Council in application of its resolution 1244 (1999). It recalls in this context the document "Standards for Kosovo", presented on 10 December 2003 and subsequently supported by the Council in the statement of its President of 12 December 2003, which outlined the standards that are to be achieved in order to reach the goal of establishing in Kosovo a multi-ethnic, stable and democratic society.

"The Security Council stresses that it is essential, as indicated in the KSIP, to review and revise in a timely manner two key Sections of the document, namely on "sustainable returns and the rights of communities and their members" and on "freedom of movement". The Council calls on the PISG to take urgent steps on these two standards in order to rebuild and reach out to the Serb and other communities who suffered most in the large-scale

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inter-ethnic violence of 17-20 March 2004 that resulted in many dead an wounded and the destruction of personal property and Serbian Orthodo churches and monasteries in Kosovo.

"The Security Council, strongly condemning those events, emphasiz that no party can be allowed to profit or to advance a political agenda throug violent measures. It calls on the PISG and all political leaders to tak responsibility in the current situation and to ensure that such acts and threa of violence are not repeated. The Council underscores that immediate actio should be taken aimed at the establishment of and public respect for the rule law, including prosecution of perpetrators, effective collection of illeg weapons and combating organized crime. The Council urges the PISG to tak concrete steps to fulfil their commitment to rebuild multi-ethnicity an reconciliation throughout Kosovo, as promised in the Open Letter Institutional and Political Leaders of 2 April 2004. The Council asserts furth that in addition there must be rapid steps taken by the PISG to fulfil the commitment to rebuild or provide appropriate compensation for damaged destroyed property and to rebuild holy sites and to facilitate the return of tho displaced from their homes.

"When assessing the progress made by the PISG, the Security Counc would pay particular attention to the adoption and the implementation of law and regulations, policies and attitudes of the PISG, amongst others, in th following areas: the fight against discrimination, corruption and economi crimes, propagation of hate by the media as well as the support for mult ethnicity and reconciliation, genuine devolution, orderly and sustainab returns, effective functioning of the Assembly and of the political partie disciplinary procedures for the civil service, building up of a professiona politically neutral and multi-ethnic administration, at central and local leve with a view to provide public services to every community on an equ footing, efficient strategy for the return of refugees and internally displace persons in safe conditions, a constructive engagement with UNMIK, and fu participation in the Direct Dialogue with Belgrade.

"The Security Council underlines the importance that the Speci Representative of the Secretary-General, within his authority as set out resolution 1244 (1999), inter alia, in the context of the review mechanis continue to consult closely with interested parties, in particular the Conta Group. The Council reaffirms its intention to continue to consider the regul reports of the Secretary-General, including an assessment from the Speci Representative of the Secretary-General, as to the Provisional Institutions Self-Government's progress towards meeting the standards. The Council tak note that the Contact Group intends to make a substantive contribution to th regular reviews and to submit its assessments to the Special Representative the Secretary-General.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General in his next repo to the Council to include a comprehensive assessment of the violence of 17- March 2004.

"The Security Council requests also the Secretary-General to prese recommendations on possible new institutional arrangements respectful of th objective of building a democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo to allow mo

effective local government through devolution of central non-reserved responsibilities to local authorities and communities in Kosovo, taking into account relevant studies and recommendations of interested parties and international organizations. How that local government is organized is a matter for further discussion between interested parties in Kosovo.

"The Security Council welcomes the strong measures by the international presence in Kosovo aimed at enhancing the security and protection of all communities, as well as their religious, historical and cultural sites, with the goal of ensuring lasting stability in Kosovo. It calls in this respect for the full cooperation of the PISG and all concerned.

"The Security Council will continue to follow the matter closely."